

Public Health Act, 1875.

REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Bradford-on-Avon Urban District

For the Year 1909.


PRESENTED TO THE

Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council

BY

W. JOHN A. ADYE,

*Medical Officer of Health of the Bradford-on-Avon Urban
Sanitary Authority.*



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Medical Officer's Annual Report.



MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Unfortunately no new works have started here during the year. The main work being in rubber, and some 80 to 90 hands find employment in the weaving of rag rugs; in addition the usual trades of the town are carried on as in other places.

House accommodation is fair, though some better ones are needed for the poorer portions of the labouring classes, with better accommodation than is found in the old type of house which they now inhabit. There is plenty air space round all our houses with the exception of one or two in St. Margaret's Place and there are none built back to back like one sees in larger towns, also the general surroundings are much improved.

The plans of all houses to be erected or improved are examined by your surveyor before coming before the Committee. One or two houses in the outlying parts of the area are not connected with the main sewers and have to rely on their own arrangements, but wherever possible all houses are connected up.

Where houses have been built with their backs against the hill, as is the case in a large number in Newtown, Middle Rank and Tory and a few other solitary instances they are naturally damp, the native stone used in their construction aiding the process, but those built in later years are much dryer and more healthy.

BIRTHS.

The birth-rate 20·13 is the lowest since 1904 and is 1·32 lower than the average for the last decade.

There were 46 males and 53 females born, totalling 99, of these five were illegitimate, 4 males and 1 female.

DEATHS.

The number of persons dying *in* the Urban District is 48, slightly more than last year; in addition to these are inhabitants dying in public Institutions *beyond* the area, numbering eight and making a total of 56, or 11.38 per 1000 of estimated population.

24 were 65 years or over, 11 were between 70 and 80; seven between 80 and 90 and one was 90 years of age. Eight infants died under twelve months of age.

Notifiable diseases caused two deaths, one by Diphtheria and one by Scarlet Fever. Epidemic Influenza accounted for three.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As was the case last year so again this, there has been a decrease, but only of one, in the number of notifications received.

Diphtheria heads the list with 16 cases, one of which ended fatally.

It was noticed that most of the children attacked attended the Infants' Department of Christ Church School; with the kind assistance of the County Medical Officer the source of a large number of these cases was proved to be due to a child discharged from the Isolation Hospital; this child infected his sister and between them they infected three more children, all five being *carrier cases* who passed it on to the other children who developed the disease.

In December the Council agreed for swabs to be examined by the Clinical Research Society, which has since been done.

The Infant Department of Christ Church School was closed for 14 days, thoroughly disinfected with Formaldehyde and all the desks, floors, benches, &c. washed with 1-40 Carbolic.

These precautions did not entirely stop the outbreak as three more cases occurred before the end of December. In January there were three cases, the end ones of last year's outbreak, no more were notified till July when two cases were returned both living in different parts of the town and attending different schools, then followed a quite period till October the 25th, when a series of ten cases followed.

What caused, or how the two children in July contracted the disease could not be found out but it was one of these children who caused the recrudescence of the complaint in October.

There is, I think, no doubt that atmospheric conditions helped to cause this illness, the damp autumn tending to colds and enlarged tonsils forming thereby a nest for any bacilli that may have been floating about in schools, houses, or meeting places.

In only three houses were sanitary matters at all in fault and these only in a very minor degree and they were immediately rectified. The town water which supplied each of the houses is of good quality; the milk was supplied from different sources and not from one person.

That there were, and probably are, more *carrier cases* attending schools than were discovered in November, I feel certain, and it is more than likely some of them are among the adult population.

One case of scarlet fever occurred; how or where contracted I could not find out; no more cases resulted from it, thanks I think to immediate removal to the Isolation Hospital and disinfection of the home.

When an infectious case is notified and there is no room for complete isolation, which is generally the case, the person is removed as soon as possible to the Isolation Hospital. The house is thoroughly disinfected and a searching report is made on the sanitary condition of the house, number of rooms, sleeping accommodation, milk and water supply, occupation of inhabitants, school attended, &c.

When any nuisance is found it is abated as soon as possible.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No cases has been notified to me of the above disease although it was made a voluntarily notifiable disease in 1900 by the Council.

Last year the Local Government Board not only made it a notifiable disease but also ordered that all changes of residence should be notified as well. Unfortunately this order only applied to those receiving aid from the rates;—under this heading no notifications have been received. For pauper patients no separate accommodation is set apart, and for the others only one-third of a bed in the Winsley Sanatorium, the other third being used by the Rural District Council.

I hope that power will be granted to some Central Authority to have all cows tested with tuberculin, and the diseased animals either slain or segregated, then one of the causes of this disease will be removed.

Spitting should not be allowed in any public place or conveyance, as when dried the sputum becomes dust and is inhaled by numbers of persons, and if the bacilli of phthisis is in it, a ready means of propagating the disease is created.

When I have personal knowledge of a change of residence or death from tuberculosis, the house is, if possible, disinfected.

MILK SUPPLY.

This is good both in quality and quantity, much of the milk is retailed from house to house, the rest is bought from the two dairy shops which are very well kept.

The number of retail sellers is seven but there are nine other milk producers who send their milk out of the district to some of the factories or large cities: two farms send their milk into the town from outside our area.

There is a general improvement in the care of the cowsheds and yards, but a great deal more might be done in this direction. Manure should be removed from close proximity to the sheds; where cows are kept in they would be greatly benefited if brushed down with a hard brush before milking and the milk would be much cleaner. Clean hands of milkers, clean udders, cleaner sheds, bedding and milking stools would all improve the milk and the health of the cows.

No action has been taken by this Authority or any other, causing dairy cows to be examined by veterinary surgeons. The Wilts County Council sent forms for an inquiry into cow-pox in the late summer but there were no cases in the district.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the summer there was a considerable and even alarming decrease in the yield of the springs at Avoncliff, presumably due to the comparatively dry winter of 1908-9 following the dry summer of 1908.

As a natural result the hours of supply had to be restricted from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m. for a period of some four months commencing the 1st of June, and during August the supply had to be further lessened for a period of three weeks, viz., from 6 a.m. till 5 p.m.

In these circumstances the services of a water deviner were requisitioned to locate other sources of supply and as a result three shafts were sunk on the east side of Avoncliff Pumping Station during the months of August and September.

The shafts yielded a supply of about 80,000 gallons daily, pierced separate springs and the chemical analysis was generally satisfactory.

The bacteriological examination, however, was unsatisfactory, and a further examination was made of a sample of the water taken as it entered the shaft which showed an enormous improvement. I am inclined to believe that a great deal of the impurities found in the first examination was due to foreign matters introduced into the shafts on the excavators' tools and boots.

The month of October proving exceedingly wet and the supply from the usual springs being adequate for the needs of the district, it was thought advisable to defer further operations until the spring of 1910.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

We have six registered Slaughter houses, but only five are used, they are kept in a clean condition, being white-washed many times a year.

No arrangements are made by the Council for the inspection of meat though the Sanitary Inspector has been present when slaughtering was being down.

There is not a certified meat Inspector in the district.

No meat has been found to be tuberculous and therefore no action has been taken.

Any small matter that requires attention has always been attended to by the butchers when asked verbally and without the need of sending formal notices.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The whole district is drained with the exception of a few out-lying houses.

More man-holes have been provided in the upper part of the town.

The Sewage works are situated about a mile from the town in a westerly direction. The sewage first goes to a receiving tank and is thence pumped to a double series of filter beds; the effluent is then passed over a large area of land and thence flows into the Kennet and Avon Canal.

SCAVENGING.

All houses are visited twice a week by the Council's Contractor, the refuse being tipped into disused surface quarries.

SCHOOLS.

There are three Public Elementary Schools, all are in good sanitary condition with the town supply of water laid on for drinking and sanitary purposes. Closets and urinals are flushed automatically. There is a great improvement in the way the schools are kept.

Two of the school yards have been re-asphalted during the year.

The children are distributed as follows :—

	Boys	Girls	Infants	Under 5 years	Total.
Trinity	106	113	98	46	363
Christ Church	134	104	113	46	397
Mason's Lane	—	78	—	—	78
	<hr/> 240	<hr/> 295	<hr/> 211	<hr/> 92	<hr/> 830

There is an increase of 20 for the year. This is due to a larger number of girls and infants. The boys I regret to say have decreased by eight.

FACTORY ACT.

Owing to the amount of steam given off from the patent ovens in the Bakehouses, white-washing twice a year does not keep the ceilings and walls as white as they were with the older ovens and I have not been able to find any white substance that will keep colour, but that is not the fault of the bakers, the bakehouses are well kept.

The Slaughter houses are white-washed many more times than is legally required and are well looked after. Town water is laid on to all but one which is fortunate enough to have a well of pure water.

Most of the workshop laundries, have been visited and found satisfactory. Workshops, Tailors, Carpenters, &c., are kept in good order, no case of overcrowding being found.

One out-workers' list has been received with seven names, all females. Some gloves are made at home in a few houses for one firm at Holt and two at Westbury.

No cases of lead poisoning have been reported nor any accidents from the use of benzine, great care being exercised in the use of both these compounds.

No serious accidents have occurred.

During the year 17 girls were examined for certificates of fitness to work and seven boys, making a total of 24.

Most of the girls are employed weaving rag rugs on hand looms ; in this work there is little or no dirt or dust as the rags used are clippings from the Service tailors, and the exercise of throwing the shuttle causes a good chest development.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. JOHN A. ADYE.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1909 and
Previous Years.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Insti- tutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-resid'ts regist'd in Public Ins. in the District.	Deaths of Resid'ts regist'd in Public Ins. beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1899	5294	123	23.25	7	56.91	79	14.92	..	..	..	79	14.92
1900	5309	86	16.19	12	139.53	71	13.37	..	..	..	71	13.37
1901	4512	110	24.37	9	81.81	64	14.18	..	..	12	76	16.84
1902	4558	92	20.18	5	54.34	46	10.09	..	..	6	52	11.40
1903	4600	121	25.86	3	24.79	48	10.43	..	..	9	57	12.39
1904	4641	89	18.95	11	123.51	48	10.34	..	..	3	51	10.98
1905	4683	96	20.47	7	72.91	54	11.53	..	..	4	58	12.38
1906	4738	96	20.26	6	62.50	41	8.65	..	..	8	49	10.24
1907	4808	115	23.71	4	34.78	45	9.35	..	..	9	54	11.23
1908	4864	102	20.92	5	49.01	46	9.45	..	..	9	55	11.30
Averages for years 1899-1908.	4800.7	103.0	21.45	6.9	66.98	54.2	11.29	..	..	..	60.2	12.53
1909	4918	99	20.13	8	80.80	48	9.76	..	..	8	56	11.38

* Rates Calculated at per 1,000 of the estimated gross population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2,005

Total population at all Ages	4512	} At Census of 1901
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	1210
Average Number of Persons per House	..	..	..	3.1

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District. { Union Workhouse.
Royal United Hospital, Bath.
Isolation Hospital, Trowbridge.
Winsley Sanatorium for Consumption.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District. { H.M. Prison, Devizes.
County Asylum, Devizes.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1909 and
Previous Years.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.			Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under one year.
1899	..	..	5294	123	79	7
1900	..	..	5309	86	71	12
1901	..	..	4512	110	64	9
1902	..	..	4558	92	46	5
1903	..	..	4600	121	48	3
1904	..	..	4641	89	48	11
1905	..	..	4683	96	54	7
1906	..	..	4738	96	41	6
1907	..	..	4808	115	45	4
1908	..	..	4864	102	46	5
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908 ..			4800.7	103.0	54.2	6.9
1909	..	..	4918	99	48	8

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during
the Year 1909.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.					
	At all Ages.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	16	1	15	..	..	..
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	1	..
Scarlet Fever ..	1	1	..	..	..	..
TOTALS ..	19	2	15	..	1	..

No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.

Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	..	..	..	16
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	..	17

Isolation Hospital—Name & Situation - Conjoint Isolation Hospital, Trowbridge.

Total available beds	..	..	..	..	50
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated					3

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH, DURING
YEAR 1909.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Ins.
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Scarlet Fever	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Diarrhœa	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Gastritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
Bronchitis	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Premature Birth ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Heart Diseases ..	3	..	1	..	..	1	1	1
Accidents	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
All other causes ..	31	5	2	..	1	7	16	6
All causes ..	56	8	4	1	2	17	24	8

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY during the Year 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
One Year of Age.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	7-8 Months.	10-11 Months.	Total D'ths under One Year.
All Causes—Certified	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Premature Birth ..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
Congenital Defects ..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	3
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	8

District of Bradford-on-Avon Urban.

Population

Estimated to middle of 1909, 4918.

Births in the year { legitimate, 94.
 { illegitimate, 5.

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants, 7.
 { illegitimate infants, 1.

Deaths from all causes at all ages 56.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1909, for the Urban District of Bradford-on-Avon, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspection.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	13	None	None
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	48	None	None
Total	61		

2.—Out-workers' Lists, Section 167.

Wearing Apparel—
Received from other Councils .. 1

3.—Registered Workshops.

Bakehouses	11
Wearing Apparel	10
Bootmakers	4
Building Trades	8
Laundries	13
Sundry	3
Total Number of Workshops on Register	48

Signature, W. JOHN A. ADYE.

Date, February 22nd, 1910.

TABLE C.

Supplementary Table for Annual Report.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

Medical officer of Health	W. JOHN A. ADYE
Date of Last appointment	July, 1907
Term of appointment	Triennial
Sanitary Inspector	Mr. A. S. WOOTTON, A.M.I.C.E.
Address.. .. .	Town Hall Chambers, Bradford-on-Avon.

Special Reports presented during past year.	Subject.	Date
	Diphtheria	November

WATER SUPPLY.

Any Extension or Change in past year?	About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on the Trowbridge road
Portions of District inadequately supplied?	None
Is section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, in all cases enforced in the District? ..	Yes
Has any action been taken under Section 3, of the same Act during the past year, if so, in how many instances?.. .. .	No

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Extension and improvements during past year?	None, new man-holes on old Sewers
Any System of Treatment adopted?	Sedimentation and double percolation
Any inadequacy in any part? ..	There are certain parts of too low a level to be drained into the Sewers and a few isolated houses where the expense would be too great

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Are Privies and Cess Pits cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Tenants?	The few remaining by Tenants
Is Scavenging undertaken by the District Council in any Parishes? if so, in which?	In whole area
Is present arrangement satisfactory?	Yes

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Parts adopted and date

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890	All, June 1st, 1896
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	All, March 31st, 1902

BYE-LAWS.

Any adopted or sanctioned during past year? if so, please send a copy	1 Cleansing of Earth Closets, privies, Ashpits or Cess Pits 2 Prevention of nuisances from Snow, Filth, &c. 3 New streets, building and alterations 4 Licensing, Inspecting and Registering of Slaughter Houses ..
Are Bye-Laws properly enforced? ..	Yes
Are New Bye-Laws necessary? ..	No
For what purposes?	—

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS ORDERS.

Are Regulations Adopted? Please send a copy	Yes
Are they enforced?	Yes

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.

	Number.		Are they inspected, and if so, by whom.	General Conditions	Legal Pro-ceeding (if any)
	Registered	Inspected			
Common Lodging Houses	1	1	Self and Inspector	Fair	None
Houses let in Lodgings ..	1	—	—	—	—
Canal Boats	—	10	Self and Inspector	—	—
Slaughter Houses	6	5	—	Good	—
Bakehouses	9	9	—	—	—
Dairies	15	15	—	—	—
Cowsheds	19	19	—	Fair	—
Milkshops	2	2	—	Good	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—

DEATH RETURNS.

What correction, if any, is made for non-residents dying within the District?	See Table 1
Are any Returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in Public Institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c.) outside the District?	Yes

DEATHS.

Please state number of each sex ..	Males 19	Females 29
Number of uncertified deaths ..	None	

BIRTHS.

Please state number of each sex ..	Males 42	Females 52
Number of illegitimate births ..	„ 4	„ 1

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Number of Beds	Male	Female	} Outside the Area
What Diseases are taken in? ..			
How many Diseases can be treated at the same time?			
Any and what charge to patients? ..			
Construction of Buildings—Brick, Stone, Wood, Iron, &c,			
Disinfecting Apparatus	Type of same		

DWELLINGS.

Number of Houses built during past year?	Two
General Character	Artisan dwellings
Any overcrowding of persons in houses?	Four cases
Any overcrowding of houses in Area?	No
Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890	No work other than inspections
Any Houses closed as unfit for Habitation?	No

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS.

House to House Inspection	Yes in various parts of the Area
Seizure of unsound Food	None
River Pollution	—
Inspection of Factories and Work- shops	Yes
Prosecutions	None

SCHOOLS.

Number in District	Three Elementary and one Secondary
Number closed on account of out- break of Disease	One, Infants' Department
Total duration of closure from this cause	14 days

BURIAL GROUNDS.

Number in District	Two
Any need for Extension	No

LOANS.

(If any) sanctioned by Local Govern- ment Board during past year ..	None
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RIVER POLLUTION.

Any action taken during the year?..	None
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METEOROLOGY.

Are any observations taken in or near your District?	Yes
Please give name and address of observer	J. Beddoe, Esq.. M.D., F.R.S., Ld'H. The Chantry, Bradford-on-Avon.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT, AND SUGGESTIONS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRADFORD-ON-AVON

Sanitary Inspector - - - A. S. WOOTTON
 Address - - - Town Hall Chambers, Bradford-on-Avon

Whether whole time devoted to duties of Sanitary Inspector or not? No.

Date of last Re-appointment: 19th April, 1909.

Summary of work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department

During Year ending 31st December, 1909.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER DIRECTION OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

No. of Cases inquired into	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, &c. Disinfected or Destroyed	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Cases of Illegal Exposure reported	..	..	..	..	..	..	—

HOUSES.

No. erected (if information obtainable)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
No. made fit for Habitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. Closed as unfit for Habitation	—
No. Cleansed and Limewashed	3

OVERCROWDING.

No. of Cases abated	4
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HOUSE DRAINS.

No. Laid or Re-laid	8
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	25
No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified	2
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. of Dumbwells rectified	..	..	..	..	..	..	—

WATER CLOSETS.

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

SCAVENGING.

Total No. of Houses from which Refuse Removable by the Authority	} All houses in Urban Dist.			
Total No. of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	..	..	..	2
Total No. of Portable Receptacles Cleansed	..	..	..	—
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement removed	..	..	..	—
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse removed	..	..	..	1571
No. of New Dust Receptacles provided	..	..	..	—

WATER SUPPLY.

No. of Wells Sunk	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
No. of Wells Closed as Polluted	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
No. of Houses Supplied from Waterworks (during year)	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No. Registered or Licensed	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. Regularly Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. Cleansed and Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Byelaws dealt with	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector	..	..	..	..	..	..	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

No. under Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. employing "Young Persons," &c. reported to Medical Officer of Health	..	..	..	..	..	..	—

LODGING HOUSES.

No. on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. Regularly Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. Cleansed and Repaired	1

ANIMALS KEPT SO AS TO BE A NUISANCE.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice	1
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ACCUMULATION OF OFFENSIVE REFUSE.

No. of Removals	2
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CLERICAL WORK.

No. of Notices Served	64
No. of Notices Complied with	62
No. of Notices Outstanding	2